

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for transmitting wireless signals in a CDMA distributed antenna system, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of antennas, where each antenna is configured to transmit a wireless signal to a receiver;

identifying one of the plurality of antennas to transmit the wireless signal to the receiver by selecting the one of the plurality of antennas based on a geographic proximity to the receiver, wherein selecting the one of the plurality of antennas based on the geographic proximity to the receiver includes (i) calculating a distance between each one of the plurality of antennas and the receiver thereby establishing a set of distances, and (ii) selecting one of the plurality of antennas corresponding to the smallest distance among the set of distances; and

transmitting the wireless signal by the one of the plurality of antennas to the receiver.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

collecting and storing reliability data for transmissions from each of the plurality of antennas to the receiver; and

selecting one of the plurality of antennas based on the stored reliability data.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of identifying the one of the plurality of antennas further comprises the steps of:

monitoring a reverse communication link between the receiver and each one of the plurality of antennas thereby determining a signal strength of each incoming reverse communication link at each antenna; and

selecting one of the plurality of antennas based upon the signal strength of the reverse communication link.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5, wherein the step of selecting one of the plurality of antennas based upon the signal strength of the reverse communication link further comprises the step of selecting one of the plurality of antennas where the signal strength of the reverse communication link meets a preferred signal strength.

7-8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of identifying the one of the plurality of antennas includes the step of determining the availability of the plurality of antennas, wherein an available antenna is an antenna not currently in use.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 9, wherein the step of identifying the one of the plurality of antennas includes selecting one of the plurality of antennas based on the availability of each one of the plurality of antennas.

11. (Currently Amended) A CDMA distributed antenna system comprising in combination:

a plurality of antennas, where each antenna is configured to transmit a wireless signal;

a pathway manager coupled to the plurality of antennas, the pathway manager configured to identify one of the plurality of antennas to transmit the wireless signal by selecting the one of the plurality of antennas based on a geographic proximity to the receiver, wherein the pathway manager identifies the one of the plurality of antennas by calculating a distance between each antenna and the receiver thereby establishing a set of distances and selecting the one of the plurality of antennas corresponding to the smallest distance among the set of distances; and

a receiver configured to receive the wireless signal transmitted by the one of the plurality of antennas.

12. (Original) The system of Claim 11, wherein the pathway manager is a device selected from the group consisting of a base transceiver station (BTS), a distributed antenna system controller (DAS), and the receiver.

13-14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 11, wherein the pathway manager identifies the one of the plurality of antennas by monitoring a reverse link communication between the receiver and each antenna thereby determining signal strengths of incoming wireless signals at each antenna.

16. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 15, wherein the pathway manager selects the one of the plurality of antennas with a preferred signal strength.

17-18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 11, wherein the pathway manager identifies the one of the plurality of antennas by selecting the one of the plurality of antennas based on an availability of the plurality of antennas, wherein an available antenna is an antenna not currently in use.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of optimizing transmission of wireless signals to a receiver in a CDMA distributed antenna system comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of antennas, wherein the plurality of antennas are configured to transmit a wireless signal;

selecting one of the plurality of antennas to transmit the wireless signal to the receiver based on geographic proximity of the one of the plurality of antennas to the receiver by:

maintaining data relating to a proximity to the receiver for each one of the plurality of antennas, and

selecting one of the plurality of antennas having the closest proximity to the receiver;

transmitting the wireless signal to the receiver using the selected one of the plurality of antennas; and

disabling unselected ones of the plurality of antennas from transmitting to the receiver.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 20, wherein the step of selecting one of the plurality of antennas further comprises the steps of:

measuring a signal strength of a communication link to the receiver for each one of the plurality of antennas; and

selecting one of the plurality of antennas having the highest measured signal strength.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 21, wherein the step of measuring a signal strength of a communication link to the receiver for each one of the plurality of antennas further comprises measuring a signal strength of a reverse link from the receiver to each one of the plurality of antennas.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 21, wherein the step of measuring a signal strength of a communication link to the receiver for each one of the plurality of antennas further comprises measuring a signal strength of a communication signal from each one of the plurality of antennas to the receiver.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 20, wherein the step of selecting one of the plurality of antennas further comprises the steps of:

maintaining data relating to reliability of transmissions to the receiver for each one of the plurality of antennas; and

selecting one of the plurality of antennas having the highest level of reliability.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~25~~ 20, wherein the step of maintaining data relating to a proximity to the receiver for each one of the plurality of antennas includes maintaining data relating to interference between each one of the plurality of antennas and the receiver.

27. (Original) The method of Claim 20, wherein the steps of the method are performed in a device selected from the group consisting of a BTS, a DAS, and the receiver.

28. (Currently Amended) A pathway manager comprising in combination:

a processor;

an antenna database coupled to the processor, the antenna database containing information of each antenna within a plurality of antennas of an antenna system, wherein the information is stored in the antenna database in categories based on whether the antenna has successfully transmitted wireless signals in the past;

a data storage medium coupled to the processor;

an interface coupled to the processor, the antenna database, and the data storage medium, the interface configured to communicate with the plurality of antenna; and

a set of machine language instructions stored in the data storage medium executable by the processor in response to a request from a base transceiver station (BTS) to perform functions including:

accessing the antenna database to determine selection characteristics of the plurality of antennas including whether the antennas have successfully transmitted wireless signals in the past and;

identifying one of the plurality of antennas to transmit a wireless signal to a receiver based on geographic proximity of the one of the plurality of antennas to the receiver and ~~based on the selection characteristics~~ based on past performances of the plurality of antennas.

29. (Original) The pathway manager of Claim 28, wherein the selection characteristics are selected from the group consisting of availability of use, reliability of receiving the wireless signal, and expected transmission signal strength.

30. (Original) The pathway manager of Claim 28, wherein the interface is selected from the group consisting of a transmitter, a coaxial cable, an Ethernet cable, and a T1 line.